

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on March 31, 2003, and the references cited therewith.

No claims are amended, canceled, or added; as a result, claims 1-9 and 43-47 are now pending in this application.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-5 and 43-47 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Miyagawa (U.S. 5,523,699).

Applicant respectfully traverses.

Applicant is unable to find in Miyagawa the elements recited in claim 1. For example, Applicant is unable to find, among other elements, “floating the terminal for a predetermined time” and “determining a state of the terminal after the predetermined time”. Applicant is also unable to find in Miyagawa the elements recited in claims 2-5, which are the dependent claims of claim 1. Since the elements of claims 1-5 are not found in Miyagawa, claims 1-5 are not anticipated by Miyagawa. Therefore, Applicant requests that the rejection of claims 1-5 be reconsidered and withdrawn and that claims 1-5 be allowed.

Claims 43-47 recite elements similar to the elements of claims 1-5. Thus, claims 43-47 are also not anticipated by Miyagawa for reasons similar to the reasons explained above regarding claims 1-5. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection of claims 43-47 be reconsidered and withdrawn and that claims 43-47 be allowed.

Claims 1-5 and 43-47 were also rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Consiglio (U.S. 5,519,327).

Claim 1 recites, among other elements, “floating the terminal for a predetermined time”. Consiglio discloses a method to apply a voltage from a transmission line to a device by closing and opening various switches at different times. In Consiglio, time T_2 is defined as a leakage measurement interval (col. 7, lines 11-12) or a leakage test interval (col. 7, lines 24-25). During this T_2 interval, the device is not floating; it is connected to a measuring unit 158 by a switch S3 (FIG. 3). Thus, Consiglio does not disclose “floating the terminal for a predetermined time”. Since Consiglio does not disclose all of the elements of claim 1, this claim is not anticipated by

Consiglio. Thus, Applicant requests that the rejection of claim 1 be reconsidered and withdrawn and that claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-5 be allowed.

Claim 43 recite elements similar to the elements of claim 1. Thus, claim 43 is also not anticipated by Consiglio for reasons similar to the reasons explained above regarding claim 1. Therefore, Applicant requests that the rejection of claim 43 be reconsidered and withdrawn and that claim 43 and its dependent claims 44-47 be allowed.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 6-9 were allowed.

Applicant acknowledges the allowance of claims 6-9.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's representative (612-373-6969) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743

Respectfully submitted,

TAWFIK R. ARABI ET AL.

By their Representatives,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8. The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 21 day of May, 2003.

Name

Karen Lee

Signature

Karen Lee